

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) sitting as the Board of Directors of The Aquifer Preservation Subdistrict (APS) was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Mark G. Rentschler, President, with Beth G. Whelley, Vice President and Michael H. van Haaren, member, present. The meeting was held at MCD headquarters.

Members of the staff in attendance: MaryLynn Lodor, General Manager; James B. Casper, Manager, Operations and Maintenance; Michael P. Ekberg, Manager, Water Resources Monitoring and Analysis; Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief Engineer; Christina M. Pfeiffer, Executive Assistant; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services; and Rhonda K. Snyder, Secretary.

Legal counsel in attendance at the regular meeting: John M. Hoopingarner, McMahon DeGulis LLP, and Lee A. Slone, McMahon DeGulis LLP.

Guests in attendance at the regular meeting: None

### **COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW AND BYLAWS**

The meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law and MCD and Subdistrict Bylaws. The meeting information was posted on MCD's website. Miami Valley news media and individuals requesting such notification were notified of the meeting by electronic mail dated December 4, 2023.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of September 18, 2023, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

#### **M 2023-155**

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously approved the meeting minutes for September 18, 2023.

Next, Mr. Ekberg presented his report to the Board of Directors.

### **AQUIFER PRESERVATION SUBDISTRICT**

#### **Capital Projects**

There are currently no scheduled capital projects for APS. However, needs, including future well replacements, are identified in an updated APS workplan, anticipated to be finalized by December. The work plan update will result in modifications to programs and identify new initiatives.

#### **Test Your Well**

MCD supported two Test Your Well events in November. The first event took place on November 6 from 4-6 p.m. at Fort Loramie High School in Fort Loramie. Agencies hosting the event included MCD, Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District, Fort Loramie High School

Future Farmers of America, and the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department. Citizens brought 64 water samples from their private wells. The samples were tested for nitrite, nitrate, and total iron. Overall, the results showed only one sample with a detectable concentration of nitrite, six samples with detectable nitrate, and 35 samples with detectable total iron.

The second event took place November 9 from 5-7 p.m. at the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) in Clayton. MCD and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the event. Other agencies participating included Public Health of Dayton and Montgomery County as well as students from the MVCTC Biotechnology program. Members of the community brought in a total of 53 water samples for testing. Testing of the samples detected the presence of nitrite in three samples, nitrate in 18 samples, and total iron in 40 samples.

### **Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium**

MCD is a long-time partner with the Consortium in its effort to protect its source water protection areas. MCD staff attend monthly meetings and share groundwater and surface water monitoring data with the Consortium. Recent topics discussed at the meetings include per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater and the rising salinity of groundwater.

### **Supporting Watershed Action Plans**

Provided funds (\$10K) as match for two projects funded by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and managed by the Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD will create two 9-Element Plans for headwater streams on Wolf Creek. An Ohio EPA-endorsed 9-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategy is a strategic plan required for eligibility to apply for Section 319 grants and other state funds for projects that fund reduce nutrient loading in watersheds.

### **Regional Water Study**

Ohio EPA and Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) is working statewide to develop comprehensive regional water studies to plan for future water needs to align with anticipated population projections, current and future water needs, both quality and quantity. MCD is a partner to the study with MVRPC and OKI Regional Councils of Government.

### **Water Restoration/ Preservation Projects**

#### **Great Miami River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

MCD is working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife to bring Conservation Enhancement Reserve Program (CREP) funding to the Great Miami River Watershed. Adding a CREP to the watershed will build on conservation activities funded in the H2Ohio initiative. Many H2Ohio floodplain and wetland restorations have been largely restricted to public lands. CREP will provide Ohio with a tool to foster conservation with private landowners and address nutrient loss. Over the course of a 15-year agreement, Ohio proposes to enroll 60,000 acres total or 3.1% of Miami crop land acres.

ODNR requested that MCD assist by managing the required Programmatic Enhancement Assessment.

New Stream Gage on Indian Creek

MCD installed a stream gage, in support of a wetland restoration project on Indian Creek, which also received funding through an H2Ohio grant managed by the Three Valley Conservation Trust. The gage was installed upstream of the site to monitor flows into the wetlands area. MCD staff will assist by collecting water quality samples at the wetlands starting 2024.

Low Dam Removal Project on the Stillwater River at Covington

Staff provided support to the Village of Covington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the ODNR who desire to remove a low dam on the Stillwater River at Covington, Ohio. MCD provided \$2,500 in funding from the APS to develop a conceptual design for the removal project. USFWS submitted and was awarded a grant application to the USFWS National Fish Passage Program to fund engineering designs for the project. USFWS is working with a consultant to design the project. Once the full design of the project is complete and necessary permits are obtained, USFWS will pursue a grant for dam removal.

Water Education

At the request of Clark County Park District, MCD designed a new poster/sign for installation at a new well and pump at their Beatty Station Trailhead to the Little Miami Scenic Trail. The sign included information on the Mad River, the aquifer, water, and water protection.

APS Services for Darke County

At the request of the Darke County Commission, a plan is being drafted that includes monitoring and additional services that MCD can provide throughout the county. Darke County commissioners indicated recent concerns over aquifer depletion due to agricultural water withdrawals and reports of private wells drying up.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

At the September 2023 meeting, the Board members set a date for a special meeting on January 11, 2024.

The Board set the following dates for their 2024 regular meetings of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District: February 29, June 5, September 18, and December 18, 2024.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. van Haaren and seconded by Ms. Whelley at 12:35pm.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

  
Mary Lynn Lador  
General Manager/Interim Board Secretary

  
Mark G. Rentschler  
President